

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 5 being the independent claims. Claims 6-14 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-5 stand provisionally rejected under the doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of co-pending Application No. 10/026,602. The only rejection set forth in the Office Action is the provisional double patenting rejection. "If the 'provisional' double patenting rejection in one application is the only rejection remaining in that application, the examiner should then withdraw that rejection and permit the application to issue as a patent, thereby converting the 'provisional' double patenting rejection in the other application(s) into a double patenting rejection at the time the one application issues as a patent." MPEP 804. In this case, the only the rejection is a provisional double patenting rejection. Accordingly, the claims should be allowed to issue as a patent.

In a telephone conversation between the Examiner and the under-signed on January 21, 2004, the Examiner stated that the claims would be allowed subject to a final, pre-allowance search.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the timely allowance of the pending claims. If it would be helpful to advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 571-203-2737.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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